

BULLETIN OF THE

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



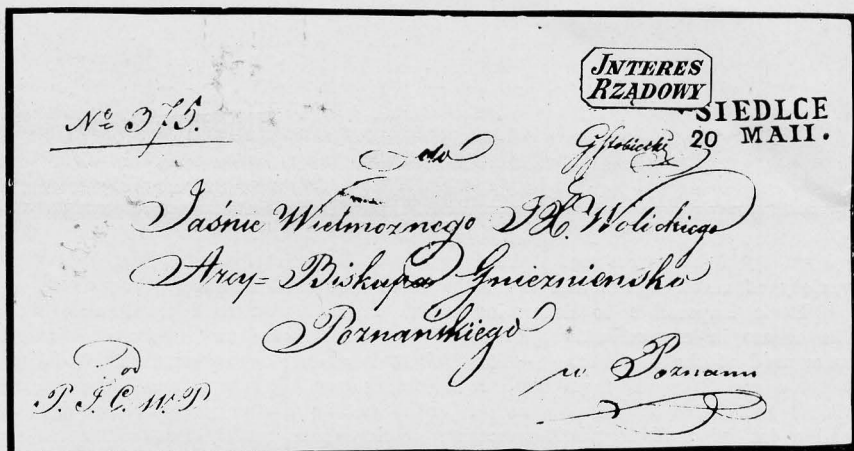
Meets Every Second and Fourth Friday of the Month at Falcons Hall, 1062 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Issue No. 175

November 1959

"Official Business" Marks of Poland 1817-1860

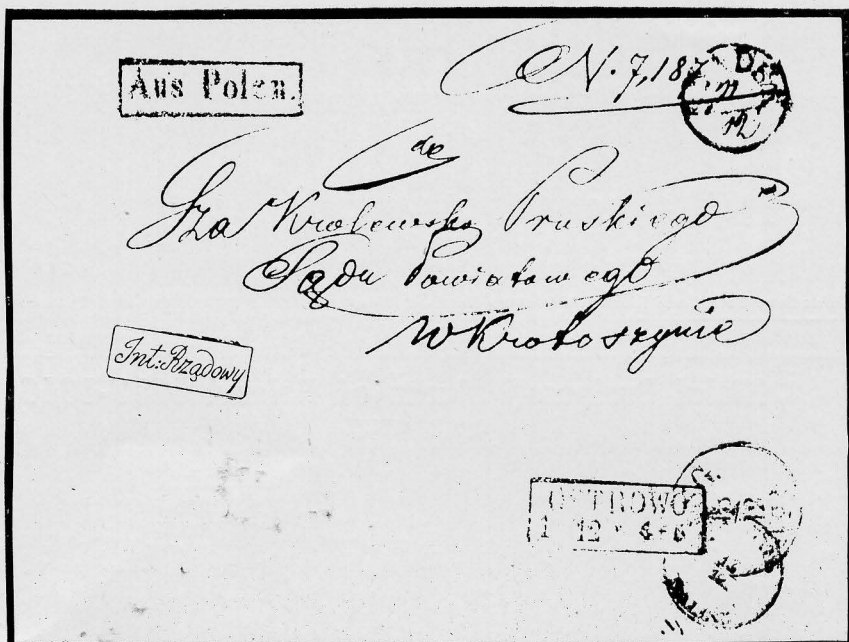
By I. GUST



Pre-stamp cover with the "official business" mark, mailed from Siedlce to the Archbishop of Poznań.

The "official business" mark of the pre-stamp period attracted the attention of research students of the postal history of Poland. The well known philatelists Messrs. Polanski and Rachmanoff published their views as early as 1935. Their findings served as basis for further articles published since in Poland and in the U.S.A. Recently Messrs. L. Zaremba and L. Parzewski opened the discussion in the bi-weekly "Filatelista" published in Warsaw and they described additional types of marks used. The war interfered with the efforts of some philatelists in Poland to collect the necessary material and a lot of valuable covers must have been lost in the tragic war years. Now the task is much harder and it is up to everyone who has such covers to describe these as fully as possible and in this way help to advance our knowledge.

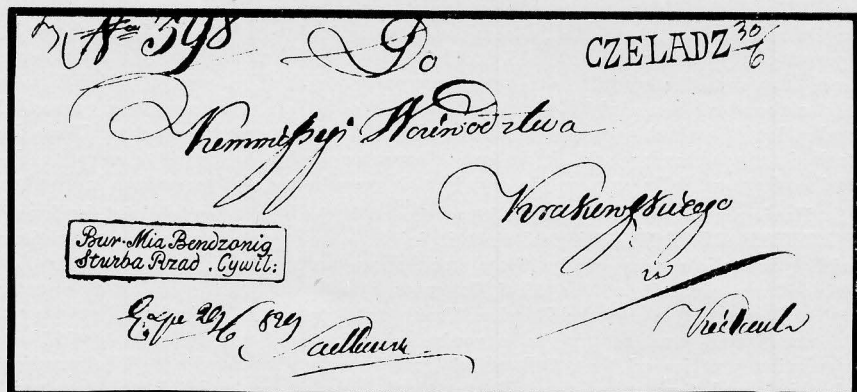
Having accumulated nearly 150 covers with the mark "on official business" "INTERES RZĄDOWY" I feel that it is of interest to share my observations with philatelists who study these marks as part of the postal history of Poland. As a result of the 1815 Congress of Vienna, the so-called "Congress Poland" emerged under the Russian Tsar's tutelage with an internal autonomy. A commission was set up to organize the Postal Services and in 1817 a regulation was issued that "all official mail was to be marked". The wording of this regulation seems to indicate that each office entitled to free mail was to use its own way of marking letters until such time when a uniform



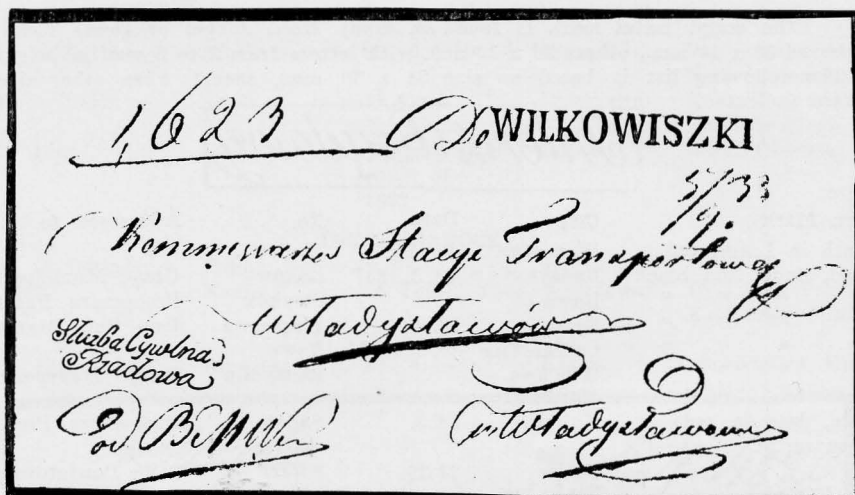
Official business letter mailed from Ostrowo to Krotoszyn.

system could be introduced. This is why we find in this period such a great variety of metal marks and the more commonly used manuscript ones.

It is impossible to determine which method was used first and, from the covers in my collection, it seems that both metal and manuscript marks were used at the same time — Mr. Polanski recorded a cover dated 28.3.1825 with a metal mark from Kalisz, while I have a cover from Płock dated 20. 6. 1819 with manuscript mark. Probably the bigger establishment which had a lot of mail found it necessary to introduce metal marks to facilitate the procedure. As it is known official letters, beside the official mark, were also countersigned by a responsible clerk. Although the manuscript type of marking was more prevalent than the metal mark, research was mainly concentrating on the metal type. We will therefore endeavor to describe both methods beginning with the metal mark.



Cover from Czeladz with Official business mark "Bur. Mia. Bendzonig Sturba Rzad. Cywil."



Official business letter sent from Wilkowitzki to Wladyslawow.

There seem to have been two variations of the mark "on official business" —one reading "INTERES ŻĄDOWY" the other "INTERES RZĄDOWY CYWILNY" —"official civilian business", by civilian probably meaning semi-official which nevertheless had the privilege of free mail. The second type is found in several variations like "INTERES CYWILNY RZĄDOWY", "SŁUŻBA RZĄDOWA CYWILNA" or "SŁUŻBA CYWILNA RZĄDOWA" (Służba means service) and it reads "official business" or "official service".

This indicates that many institutions of a semi-government status had the right to free mail. Indeed the covers suggest that churches, city and village administration, courts of law, transport, city and country builders, surveyors, etc., when writing on official matters were exempt from postal charges and had to mark such letter accordingly.

The metal marks seem to fall into **two types** based on the type of letters used: 1. with script letters (French). 2. with Roman block letters. The script

Interes Rządowy

INTERES RZĄDOWY

type resembles the fine handwriting which was very popular at that time was the more numerous one and it was used on many marks which differ in size, form and wording. It is impossible to indicate when these marks first came into operation due to lack of information and the fact that most covers have dates and month but not the year of dispatch. Sometimes the address makes it possible to arrive at an approximate year, or the receiving mark suggests an approximate year. Occasionally the paper of some covers have watermarks indicating when this was made and we can thus arrive at the nearest year. I feel that it is advisable to give a detailed description of each letter to help further research students.

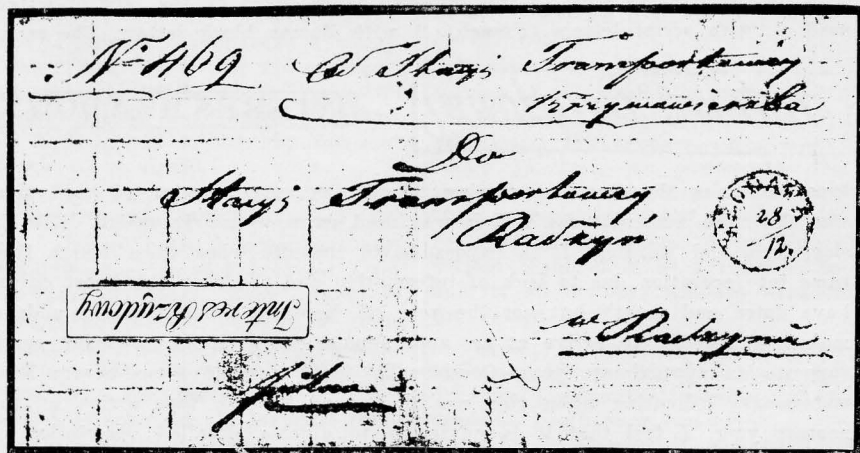
The script metal mark is found in many sizes, shapes or forms mostly boxed 58 x 10 mm., others 26 x 10 mm., with letters from 2 to 5 mm. in height. The following list is based on size 58 x 10 mm., except when other sizes are indicated.

Interes Rzadowy

Town Mark	City	Date	To	Addressed to
Month in Latin, red	Warszawa	5 Febr II	Kielce	
boxed, single line, black	Radzyn	31. 5. 1837	Łuków	Urząd Municipalny
" " " "	Rawa		Stryków	Proboszcza Parafii
" " " "	Rawa	20. 9	Warszawa	Urz. Gub. Mazowieck.
" " " "	Czerniewice	19. 5. 1826	Rawa	
" " " "	Włodawa 40x10 mm.		Radzymin	Stacji Transportowej
Circle, date in red	Kalisz	18. 3.	Sadki	Proboszcza Parafii
manuscript				
" " red	Kalisz	23. 10.	Szrem	Sądu Powiatowego
" " black	Rawa	6. 11. 1848	Łódź	Sądu Skarbowego
" " black	Włocławek	31. 3.	Poznań	Arcybiskupa Poznań.
" " red	Koniń 48x12 mm.		Warszawa	
Circle, movable date, red	Warszawa	10. 4.	Kraków	Konsistoria Iglgo
" " " red	Kielce		Radom	Rządu Gubernialnego
" " " black	Szadek 26x10 mm.		Krotoszyn	Stacji Transportowej

The following marks are irregular in shape and also use script letters:

Month in Latin, red	Kalisz	21 Nov.	Piotrków	Komisarza Obwodu
Month in Latin, red	Siedlce	20 Maii	Poznań	Arcybiskupa Poznań.
boxed, single line, black	Wilkowiszki	5. 9. 1833	Władysławów	Stacji Transportowej
" " " black	Czeladź	30. 6. 1829	Kielce	Województwa Kraków
Circle with date				
in manuscript black	Koniń		Wrześni	Kom. Uregulów Linji
" " " "	Piotrków		Radom	Granicznej
" " " "				Magistratu Miasta



Cover sent from Włodawa to "Stacji Transportowej" at Radzymin.

The second type using Roman block letters is also boxed is not as numerous as the previous one and can also be divided into two groups:

Group I. Only block letters

Group II. Capitals in each first letter

INTERES RZĄDOWY

JINTERES RZĄDOWY

Group I

Belchatów (48 x 5 mm.)	5. 8. —	Piotrków	
Prasnysz (42 x 7 mm.)	14. 3. 1836	Pułtusk	Kommissarza Obwadu
Łęczyca (52 x 5 mm.)	26. 8. —	Łódź	Pastora Parafii Ewangelickig

Group II

Siedlce (40 x 10 mm.)	17 Martii 1840	Radzymin	Stacji Transportowej
Zalesin (40 x 12 mm.)	9. 3. 1843	Siedlce	" "

In this group a curious mistake is found on four covers with a double "s" in "INTERES". Three are boxed, one without.

Wejwery	4 Junii 1842	Szaki	Stacji Transportowej
Szaki	—	Władysławów	" "
Władysławów	Nov. 1843	Marjampol	" "
Szczuczyn	29. 8. 1837	Augustów	" "

This type of Roman block letters was also used on covers using the "official and civilian business" mark. It comes in both settings "SŁUŻBA RZĄDOWA CYWILNA" or "SŁUŻBA CYWILNA RZĄDOWA", boxed and in two lines.

**SŁUŻBA CYWILNA
RZĄDOWA**

Rawa (46 x 12 mm.)	—	Warszawa	Rządu Gubernialnego
Suwalki (46 x 10 mm.)	4. 7. —		
Rudaguzowska (40 x 10 mm.)	24. 5. 1865	Łódź	Prezydenta Miasta.
Zelechów (32 x 14 mm.)	13. 4. 1844	Łuków	Stacji Transportowej

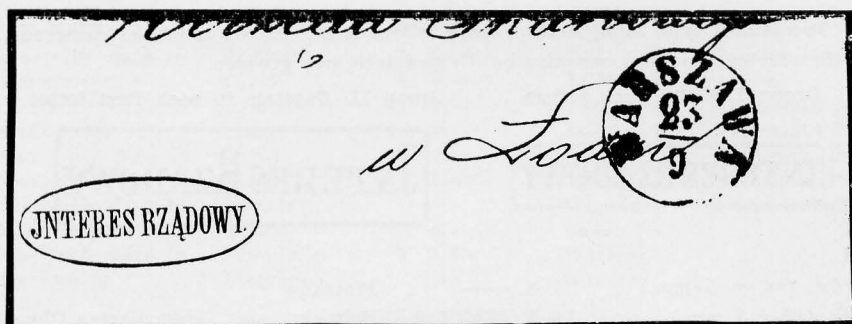
It is quite probable that a new regulation must have been issued around 1840 indicating the type of marks to be used and the following marks tend to confirm this view. Some of these have been described many times and third one comes from Warsaw and addressed to Łódź. Unfortunately not one of these covers shows the year of dispatch.

**INTERES RZĄDOWY
OD RZĄDU GUB. : WARSZ.
OTЪ BAPIH: ГУБ: ПРАВ:**

M. Koralewski

**INTERES RZĄDOWY
OD
RZĄDU GUBER. RADOMSKIEGO**

Official business mark at left has the signature of the clerk sending the letter.



The description of the marks may assist further research and probably many more variations will be found which will help us to understand better the period under review.

What has only been mentioned in passing but not fully described was the more commonly used **manuscript type** of marking.

Obviously it would serve no purpose to describe the individual style of handwriting but it is possible to group these marks according to the way these were used on the envelopes.

Generally speaking the two basic types used on the metal marks were also used in manuscript namely "INTERES RZĄDOWY" or "SŁUŻBA RZĄDOWA CYWILNA" and again the first variant was more common. Not all clerks had the patience to write the mark in full and the majority used abbreviations. The following list seems to complete off all possible variations: INTERES RZĄDOWY; INT. RZĄDOWY; INT RDOWY; INT. RZĄD; I. RZĄ; I. RWY; I. RZ; I. RZĄD and the most frequently used abbreviation — I. R. (INTERES RZĄDOWY).

Next come the manuscript of the SŁUŻBA RZĄDOWA; S.R.; SŁUŻBA RZĄDOWA CYWILNA; SŁUŻBA CYWILNA RZĄDOWA; S. C. R. and the last INTERES POCZTY (Postal business).

The earliest cover using manuscript is dated 20. 6. 1819 from Plock, the latest 2. 10. 1859 sent from Koniecpol to Piotrkow.

Of the covers which I have examined almost two-thirds used the manuscript way of marking. The fact that most covers have no indication of year of dispatch makes it hard to determine the approximate year. Of great help in determining the approximate year also the type of town marks used.

Therefore I tried to indicate this in the article to assist further research.

ŁĘCZYCA

SZCZUCZYN



Different Types of Town Marks.

LIST OF COVERS WITH MANUSCRIPT MARKS

INTERES RZĄDOWY				
Town Mark	Town	Date	To	Addressed to:
Mont in Latin	Warszawa	11 Maii	Kielce	
Single Line, boxed	Zawichost	15. 8. —	Warszawa	Dyrekcji Ubezpieczen
Circle, date in pencil	Radomsk	13. 7. —	Warszawa	Urzedii Subernialnego
INT. RZĄDOWY				
Single line	Szrey	2. 10. 1847	Suwalki	Stacji Transportowej
Circle, date in manuscript	Piotrkow	—	Warszawa	Rządu Subernialnego
Russian & Polish	Lask	—	Warszawa	Rządu Subernialnego
INT. RDOWY				
Circle, moveable date	Opoczno	6. 6. —	Warszawa	—
INT. RZĄD.				
Single line	Szczuczyn	11. 7. 1843	Suwalki	Prezyd. Miasta Gabernialnego
I. RZĄ.				
Circle	Pabianice	7. 8. —	Orpelowo	Wojta Gminy
"	Ruda	20. 10. —		Dobron
	Guzowska			
I. RZĄDU				
Single line	Koziegłowy	3. 3. 1830	Kielce	Kom. Wojewodztwa Mazowieckiego.
I. RWY.				
Circle	Złoczew	29. 6. —	Łódź	Magistratu Miasta
I. RZ.				
Single line	Wierzbolow	22. 7. 1836	Władysławów	Burmistrza Miasta.
Circle	Pilica	10. 8. —	Łódź	Magistratu Miasta.
I. RZĄD.				
Single Line	Warszawa	6 Janii	Bydgoszcz	Krdewskiego Pruskiego Sądu
I. R.				
Single Line	Wielun	1821	Kalisz	Komm. Demarkoc. Granic Po Strone Prus.
	Suwalki	15 Novemb.	Augustów	Stacji Transportowej
" "	Iwanowice	11 Novemb.	Kielce	Obliterated.
" "	Zwierzyniec	12. 6. 1834	Janowiec	Stacji Transportowej
" "	Turk.	20. 7. 1833	Koła	" "
" "	Podzamecz	1841	Poczwice	" "
" "	Raygrod	17. 9. 1842	Szczuczyn	" "
" "	Szypliszky	22. 11. 1843	Seyny	" "
" "	Ryki	20. 4. 1844	Łuków	Naczelnik Powiatu
" "	Proszowice	9. 3. 1841	Kielce	Rządu Gubernalnego
" "	Szadek	23. 1. 1851	Łódź	Magistratu Miasta
" "	Sochaczew	18. 7. —	Warsaw	Komm. Rzod. Spraw Wewnetrznych
" "	Tykocin	—	Suwalki	Prefydente Gubernal
" "	Kozepice	4. 2. —	Mielun	Naczelnik Powiatu.
" "	Stopnica	13. 6. —	Szydłowice.	Stacja Transportowa
" "	Szczuczyn	—	Warszawa	Policmajster Miasta
" "	Widawa	27. 2. —	Łódź	" "

Town Mark	Town	Date	To	Addressed to:
Circle with date in Manuscript	Radomsk	7. 5.—	Łódź	Poliemajster Miasta
Circle with date in Manuscript	Turek	2. 8.—	Łódź	" "
Circle with date in Manuscript	Zgierz	27. 7.—	Łódź	Magistratu Miasta.
Circle with date in Manuscript	Pilica	16. 9.—	Łódź	Magistratu Miasta.
Circle with date in Manuscript	Żarki	12. 2.—	Olkusz	Naczelnik Powiatu.
Circle with date in Manuscript	Szrensk	4. 5.—	Mławy	Naczelnik Powiatu.
Circle with date in Manuscript	Sieradz	—	Warsaw	Rzodu Gubernalnego.
Circle with date in Manuscript	Kielce	7. 8.—	Radom	" "
Circle with date in Manuscript	Sieradz	3. 1.—	Warsaw	" "
Circle with date in Manuscript	Piotrków	—	Warsaw	" "

SLUŻBA RZĄDOWA

Month in Latin	Płock	7 Septmb 1829	Pułtusk	Burmistrz Miasta.
Circle	Radomsk	—	Piotrków	Naczelnik Powiatu
"	Radomsk	—	Kalisz	Rzodu Gubernalnego

S. R.

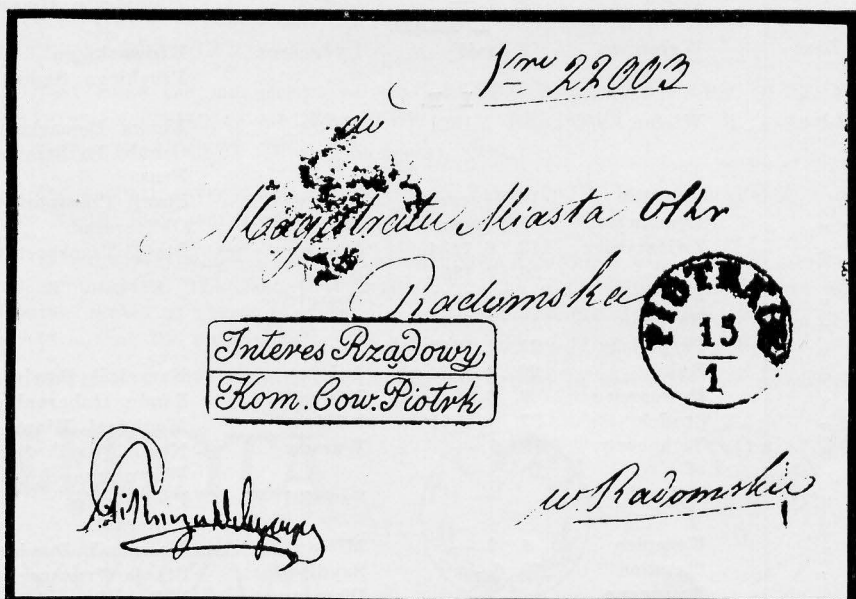
Single Line	Proszowice	9. 3. 1841	Kielce	Rządu Gubern.
" "	Konieczpol	2. 10. 1859	Piotrków	Krakowskiego
" "	Działoszyn	—	Warszawa	Naczelnika Powiatu
" "	Sochaczew	—	Łódź	Rządu Gubernalnego
" "	Łęczyca	11. 9.—	Warszawa	Urząd Skarbowy
" "				Kom. Województwa Mazowieckiego

SLUŻBA RZĄDOWA CYWILNA

Month in Latin	Piotrków	8. Novemb.	Kalisz	Kom. Województwa Kaliskiego
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SLUŻBA CYWILNA RZĄDOWA

Month in Latin	Rawa	10. Martu	Warszawa	Prez. Województwa Mazowieckiego
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Official business mark on a letter from Piotrków to the "Magistratu Miasta" (City Magistrate) of Radom.

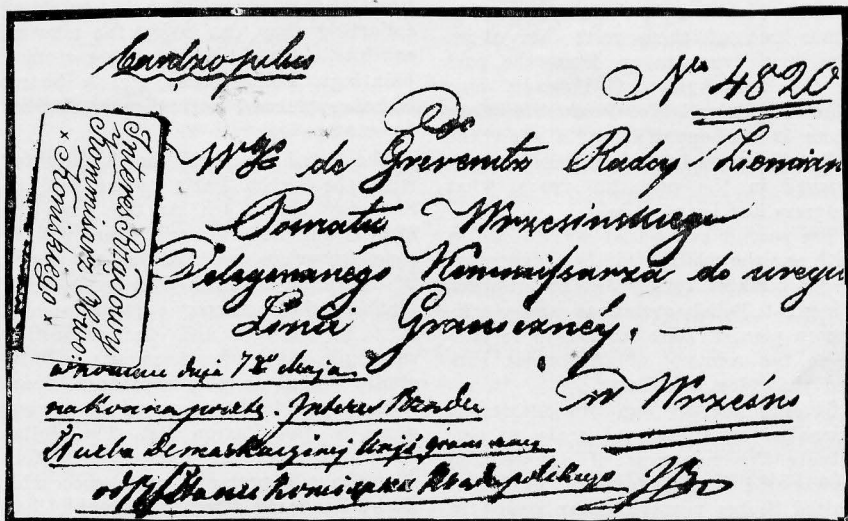
		S. C. R.		
Month in Latin	Płock	20. 6. 1819	Warszawa	Pan Flanke, Sekr.
Month in Latin	Rawa	28 Junii	Warszawa	Kom. Demarkacyjny
Single Line	Wolbórz	Watermarked paper of 1822	Rawa	Kom. Województwa Mazowieckiego
				Kom. Obwodu

INTERES POCZTY.

Month in Latin	Hrubieszow	20. 10. —	Hrubieszów	—
	Konin	6 Febr.	Warszawa	Dyr. Gen. Pocht Królestwa Polskiego

I. P. (INTERES POCZTY)

Single Line	Siewierz	27. 4. —	Kielce	Województwa Kraków
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Official business mark on cover from Konin to "Komisarza do uregulowań Linii Granicznej (Commissioner of Border Regulations) in Września.

NEW MEMBER

Z. Włodarski
274 Willesden Lane
London N.W. 2, England

APPLICANT PENDING

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Detroit 5, Mich.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Daniel H. Palkowski 593
108 W. Lincoln Rd.
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Victor Hermanowski 479
1125 N. Richmond St.
Chicago 22, Ill.

DR. UZNANSKI ON TELEVISION

On Nov. 30th, on WGN-TV, Dr. M.E. Uznanski showed viewers his Internationally famous Collection of Christmas Seals and spoke on them. This was part of the good Doctor's work in connection with the Annual Anti-Tuberculosis Seal Drive.

Dr. Uznanski was invited to put his collection up for public viewing during the Christmas Season. They will be on exhibit in the lobby of the downtown Inland Steel Building, Monroe at Dearborn Streets, Chicago, from Nov. 18 thru Jan. 5, 1960.

Here's a treat that our Chicagoland members can't afford to miss!

POLPEX 1960 TO BE HELD MARCH 4, 5 & 6 AT THE P. R. C. U. MUSEUM, CHICAGO, ILL.

The year 1960 will see some significant anniversaries in the historical and cultural fields. For philatelists over the world who collect Poland, this year will give us the opportunity to display our ingenuity and ideas in combining these events with stamps, which should be shown at every possible stamp show, locally, nationally or internationally.

Although there are several anniversaries or events which tie in with philately, the Polpex Committee, after careful consideration, has chosen to honor two of them with our show. The first event taken from the past is the Centennial of Poland's lone adhesive, Poland No. 1 of 1860. Here alone is the opportunity to show the philatelic world what has been achieved in the past 100 years, what progress has been made.

The second event that we will tie in with our show is the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the great Polish statesman and world-known pianist. Here we intend to publicize the memory of this great man and champion of liberty.

Several months ago we started a campaign on a national scale to perpetuate the memories of Ignace Jan Paderewski in the form of having a United States postage stamp issued in the Champion of Liberty series. We would like to see every member participate in this drive for such a stamp. You can help by writing and encouraging others to write to our Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, Washington 2, D.C., and asking him for such stamps to be issued.

Our 1960 Polpex will also be a kick-off for "Polska 60" at Warsaw. We have already been promised an outstanding collection of Poland No. 1 for our Court of Honor. Many awards — trophies and medals — will be given in practically every phase of Poland's Philately. Also, foreign collections will be eligible for major awards. Competition is open for the majestic three foot high Polonus Grand Award and the Dr. Kozakiewicz Research Award.

This year our exhibition will be held on March 4, 5 and 6, at the Polish Roman Catholic Union Museum, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., corner of Augusta Blvd., in Chicago. By having our show in the museum, viewers will not only see Poland's Philately but also mementoes of Poland's history and culture. Here visitors can see the famous Paderewski Room that contains the actual belongings of this champion of liberty. You can make this a family affair and bring the wife and youngsters. If they're not interested in stamp collecting they can enjoy the museum exhibits, the traditional costumes, paintings, Polish coins, etc. A bourse is being planned with plenty of room for stamp dealers.

The exhibition will be highlighted with the Beeba Party to be held on Saturday March 4th. At this time the awards will be presented, there will be some surprises, and of course plenty of Polish style food. We are already planning the customary souvenir sheets, first day covers and the exhibition catalogue. Any advertisements will be gladly placed in this catalogue. I appeal to you to be sure and have your name in the Patron list. The dollar donations from the Patrons will help us make a bigger and more successful show. Good old Chester Mikucki, 1844 N. Winchester, Chicago 22, is already eagerly awaiting your dollar for the Patron listing.

I appeal to all members to assist in making this exhibition a memorable one. Although the show is being held in Chicago, any member, regardless of where he lives, can participate. The success of the show depends on you! Plan your exhibits now! Bring in ads for the catalogue, send in for Patron listing. Wouldn't it be a sight to behold if all of our members were on the Patron list?

And if you possibly can, visit our show. Out-of-towners will be very welcome and the many attractions will indeed be worth your coming.

—Roman H. Strzelecki,
Polpex Chairman

WHAT GOES ON AT POLONUS . . .

By ROMAN H. STRZELECKI, Secretary

MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 1959

The attendance of the meeting was surprisingly large as there were thirty-four members and three visitors present. As this was the scheduled and long advertised Program Night, all members present in all probability expected something quite unusual, rather than our regular and dull business meeting. I doubt that anyone present at this meeting was disappointed.

The President called the meeting to order at 8:20 o'clock P.M. and since no urgent business was on hand, within ten minutes the meeting was adjourned and we proceeded with our program.

The speaker for the night was one of our old timers, who not long ago made a tremendous hit by presenting to Polonus his elaborated History Collection. Bert Powell's intention was to talk on "Waste Basket Collecting" which he did, but, first of all, he thanked us for the invitation and told of the many requests of Polonus members for him to come back to a more active life at Polonus. As any talk or discussion, regardless of the theme, can be dull and tiresome, old Bert foresaw and divided his talk into a small "three-ring-circus". First, a talk on the Polonus Library; Secondly, revival of Polonus old time history and third, his actual talk.

The scheduled entertainment was something of unusual nature and I'm most certain that all the members really enjoyed the evening. He emphasized in the beginning the fact that as there were so many new faces in the Polonus Society today he would make a personal donation of some of his books and documents to the Polonus Library. This was mainly meant to enable all the new faces to get acquainted not only with the old Philatelic material; not only with Polonus history, but also with the ideas and inspirations the old timers used to have. He donated eight books—all nicely bound—and as they were connected with Poland and stamp collecting, they would certainly be useful to

the members.

He also donated a certain amount of material which was his private property but was connected with Polonus. All these documents, as I may call them, might be worthless pieces of paper, but when they will be included in Polonus history books they will tell of the Society's past glory.

His only wish, which he emphasized, was that all these books and documents be properly recorded in the minutes, and his wish was fulfilled. A separate list of all the donated items was placed in the Minute Book under the Meeting No. 487, dated October 23, 1959.

Next he prepared a very attractive idea which was a door prize drawing for all the members present. For this purpose he also donated five books of Philatelic value and connected with Polish stamp collecting, and so the lucky winners were: Mr. Hermanowski, Mr. Józkwicz, Mr. Czarnicki, Mr. John Bor and Mr. Chester Mikucki.

This little venture livened up the entire meeting and by the smiling faces you could see that everyone was pleased.

Most of the old time members know about Bert Powell's activities but I might mention that he was working as publicity officer not only for Polonus but for Poland during her sad war years. He also was working with the Polish Information Center in New York where he was able to acquire some of the Poster Stamps which were issued by the above Center during the Second World War.

In order to make the meeting still more attractive and give a "kick" to the life of Polonus, he prepared an envelope for each member containing a set of these Poster Stamps. This again he aimed at the new members to get them better acquainted with Polish publicity thru Philately. Right at this time his ingenuity turned in a little different direction, and he used the opportunity of relating to all members present, the spirit and glory of old Polonus.

He mentioned several outstanding

and important facts which were written in Polonus history with big gold letters. He also made an appeal to the younger members for more constructive and more effective work in Philatelic publicity. He emphasized very strongly the importance of publicity among our American friends.

In the last episode of his talk he finally came to "Waste Basket Collecting". He exhibited three nicely and attractively made up collections. The first two, although inexpensive, were made up in an appealing manner. The 6c U.S. Air Mail Stamp made up one collection; the Presidential set made up another, and both mounted on black album pages with full description of all different types and forms of cancellations. Each item was shortly described so that when exhibited made a very interesting item to both a collector as well as a casual visitor. The

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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— Annual Dues are \$2.50 —

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with proofs 5.00

Scott catalogs,
albums, supplies, any brand.

VARIETIES

No. 34 Inverted overprint
mint block \$15.00
No. 73 Double overprint
mint single 50.00
No. 104 Grey Lilac mint
block 2.00
No. 215/25 proof imperf
singles 40.00
No. 243 Chopin imperf single
mint 9.00

— WANT LISTS WELCOME —

Twin Eagle Stamp Co.

2140 IOWA
GRANITE CITY, ILL.

third collection was entitled "Poles all over the World". This collection contained besides stamps showing Poles, articles from newspapers, photographs, autographed covers, etc.

Around 11 o'clock P.M. with smiling faces and a lot of commotion, we thanked Mr. Bert Powell for his surprising and nicely arranged talk and proceeded with our customary Beeba.

VARIETY

Member Joseph M. Jakubecki of Detroit, Mich. submitted this variety for our information. It's Scott's 507, issued April 1, 1951. The difference is in the vertical stroke of the "4" of 45. In Type I the right hand of the lower portion of the vertical stroke goes thru the horizontal stroke slightly. In Type II it does not, as the stroke indicates.



TYPE I



TYPE II

The two types can be found on the same sheet as Mr. Jakubecki submitted an unsevered pair.

— J. J. D.